



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The Honorable Gil Gutknecht (MN-01)

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Extension of Remarks

Congratulating Jones Metal Products

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jones Metal Products of Mankato, Minnesota, on receiving the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Above and Beyond award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. Their mission is to continuously gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. Local and national representatives stand ready to help employers understand federal laws that affect the call-up of their employees. The Above and Beyond award recognizes those who have gone beyond what federal law requires for supporting activated Guard employees.

Minnesota businesses that employ Guard members are an essential link in family support for deployed service members. The state of Minnesota is recognized as a leader among those employing Guard and Reserve members and received the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Jones Metal Products, one of 475 companies nominated for the Above and Beyond award, was nominated by Staff Sgt. Juan Berrones. While Staff Sgt. Berrones was deployed to Iraq, Jones Metal Products provided him pay raises, two bonuses and showed continuous support to his family.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Jones Metal Products for receiving the Above and Beyond Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of Guard and Reserve and commend them for the extraordinary services provided to those who serve our country.